

Remarks

Applicants have amended the claims in anticipation of the Examiner preparing a first examination Office Action and in light of the Examiner's comments with respect to the IDS and US5821937.

It should be noted that the telecommunications data network planning tool in accordance with the invention is not directed to finding shortest path routes and to testing networks to determine whether to route traffic over packet based networks or circuit switched networks as the Examiner supposes. The network planning tool is directed to an iterative planning process for planning a data network taking into account what is required of the network once built and factors that are known to affect data packets being transmitted through the planned network. The planned network is modelled and its modelled performance tested against an objective comparison model whereby feedback from the comparison step allows the factors to be modified whilst maintaining the specified network requirements in order to arrive, after some iterations, at a network plan which can then be implemented.

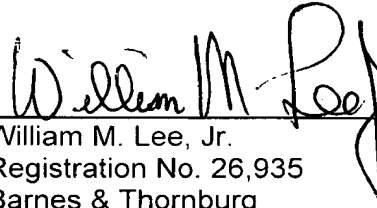
It is submitted that none of the references identified in the IDS nor US5821937 discloses or suggests such an approach to planning a data network.

Further action is awaited.

This response is timely, as June 12, 2004 was a Saturday.

June 14, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William M. Lee, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

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